

1960s type shows. This is potent stuff on our streets that our kids are getting. Because when they have the huge quantities of it and it is cheap in the schools and the streets, there is no amount of DARE programs or treatment programs or putting policemen on the street that can stop this.

Mr. Speaker, we know where it comes from. Some of these countries have been very aggressive for a number of years in eradicating the coca leaves and particularly the production in the cocaine. In Peru and Bolivia, we have seen a turnaround. We have seen their percentages drop.

In Colombia they are at war, and we need to help the Nation of Colombia fight this so that we do not have troops down there. We also have our number one oil supplier on their border, Venezuela, and the Panama Canal on the other border.

□ 1615

That is where we have a compelling national interest. But we have some real problems in Mexico. The Mexican leaders, their government seem very committed to trying to change this problem. But we have deep problems.

Everybody says we should forget the past, but it is difficult to forget the past right now when our information has been compromised and when we have had so much corruption.

We are hopeful, and one of the debates we are going to hear in Congress is how we should deal with this decertification question, because it gets inevitably wrapped up in NAFTA, trade questions, and the fact that an important and critical part of our long-term interests will be to work with Mexico.

But the question is, are we going to have any accountability standards? Since most of the drugs coming into my hometown and the rest of this country are pouring across the border from Mexico right now, we need to see results and not just rhetoric.

Over the next few days and weeks, we are going to hear a number of Members coming down here talking about this issue and about the drug issue as a whole as we develop packages, as we try to work with the administration and drug czar, General McCaffrey, to try to solve this problem. I am looking forward to seeing if we continue to make progress.

EVEN THOUGH ECONOMY IS GOOD, WORKERS IN OIL PATCH ARE STILL LOSING JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I start, I would first like to associate a few words with the legislation, H.R. 396, which passed

today that would honor our former colleague Ron Dellums by naming a Federal building after him in Oakland, California.

Let me indicate my great appreciation and respect for the dedication and service of Ron Dellums. I can think of no better tribute to him than the naming of a building in his beloved Oakland after him. I salute the legislation and support it.

Mr. Speaker, I have another topic that I would like to raise today, and I believe that there is much that we need to do on this issue. Although we look now at a budget surplus and are probably in the best economy that we have had along with its longevity of a number of years, we still have concerns.

What does the number 50,000 make you think of? For myself, it signifies the number of jobs lost in Texas because of the harsh realities of our modern economy and the energy crisis. But there has to be hope for those workers in the oil patch.

That is why I convened with top administration and congressional officials at the White House last month a meeting to discuss how we could better address the needs of energy workers who lose their jobs in mass layoffs.

When the Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman and White House Chief of Staff John Podesta expressed their concern about their circumstances, I felt that we could work together to improve the question of job loss in communities throughout this Nation, Boeing, for example, and the State of Washington.

With that cooperation in mind, we have already been able to get part of the work done. In the State of the Union Address, President Clinton stressed that he would promote programs that would bring relief to communities that are struggling with mass layoffs.

The real question is, do we have the information down at the local level? This would include job retraining and rapid response teams that help workers and employers in times of crisis. I have found that we really need to get this information not only to the employers but to the workers.

The President followed up on that commitment by pledging \$1.6 billion for training for displaced workers and \$65 million to help those workers find new jobs in the budget for the next fiscal year.

It is unique in the oil patch because we would like not to lose these workers while they have been laid off because we do believe in the supporting of a domestic oil policy.

I also plan to introduce a piece of legislation called the Job Protection Initiative Act in the coming weeks that will bring much needed structured assistance to the energy industry which has been hit by spontaneous negative market activity.

My initiative will trigger faster governmental response to mass layoffs and

will encourage employers to use Federal and State resources that are available to them already by requiring that the Secretary of Labor establish an office to monitor job layoffs across the United States, authorizing \$500 million to be used to help private companies establish lifelong learning programs for their employees, and give the Secretary of Labor the authority to officially recognize those businesses that cooperate with the government to minimize the damage that their layoffs cause.

Although the support of many of our Members of Congress will be needed in order to pass this initiative, I expect that all Members will be able to relate to times when industries that reside in their districts struggled in similar crises and support these efforts.

As one of the representatives of those who work in the energy arena, the oil and gas arena, I realized that it is difficult to be a victim of a certain industry's downfall in these good times. Someone needs to listen, and so we must listen to those voices of individuals who support their family who are now being laid off because of the down trend in the energy industry and of course the low cost of oil per barrel.

This helps the consumer, and we want to continue to help the consumer, but we also need to help our workers. I hope that my colleagues in Congress will see the benefit of also paying attention to those individuals who suffer layoffs even in this good economy.

I would expect my legislation to be offered in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Speaker, I ask for your support and all of my colleagues so that we can respond to the working men and women of America who keep the engine of this economy going when they most need us in their time of need.

RENEW COMMITMENT TO BRING FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY TO ENSLAVED PEOPLE IN CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we commemorate 3 years since the Castro dictatorship indiscriminately killed four young men, three of them American citizens, when two Cuban MIGs shot down their aircraft over international waters while they were on a humanitarian mission.

Three years after the cold blooded murder of Pablo Morales, Carlos Costa, Armando Alejandro, and Mario de la Pena, the Castro dictatorship continues its brutal reign of terror over the Cuban people, and in fact it has intensified this attack.

Just last week, the rubber stamp Cuban National Assembly approved a new law that punishes with 15 years in prison or more anyone on the island